

**Meldreth, Shepreth & Foxton Rail User Group Meeting
22 September 2010, 20.00– 21.30
Shepreth Village Hall**

Minutes

Attendees/Station:

Apologies:

Sue Hanson, Meldreth	SuH	Simon Bedlow
Jane Eggleton, Meldreth	JaE	Robin Tunnah
Jim Eggleton, Meldreth	JiE	Jose Hales
John Evans, Meldreth	JE	Surinder Soond
Laura Mungovan, Shepreth (Minutes)	LM	Beatrice Fisher
Peter Wakefield, RailFuture	PW	
Richard Marchant (FCC Station Manager)	RM	
Christine Adams, Shepreth	CA	
Steve Hawkins, Meldreth	SH	
Geoff Barnes, Foxton	GB	
Mark Wyatt Melbourn	MW	

1.	Welcome and apologies SV welcomed all new members.	Actions
2.	Minutes of previous meeting No comments on previous meeting.	Actions
3.	Updates	
a.	<i>Notice boards at the three stations</i> Notice boards (1040 x 640mm) have arrived. RM has offered to provide posters and to put them up at the stations if the RUG provides him with Word documents to convert to PDF. It was agreed that a poster space in Cambridge and Royston could also be used.	
b.	<i>Parish Councils</i> Melbourn to host AGM and Parish Council will be asked to contribute to cost of room hire. RUG will invite all interested parties, such as the police etc.	
c.	<i>British Transport Police</i> British Transport Police data has been very interesting, and is now being incorporated into Cambridgeshire Police data. RM reported on consistent low-level anti-social behaviour (i.e. people jamming the ticket machine in Foxton). RM to install coin gate on machine so the person using the machine needs to be committed to buy the ticket before they can insert any coins.	
d.	<i>Student discount</i> SV confirmed that it was great news to have the 50% discount available. There were a few minor issues experienced: the link on the FCC website doesn't work properly, but there was a good response from FCC to resolve these problems.	

There may have been some factual errors on the website: Literature suggests the offer is available to the whole of Cambridgeshire (not just Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton). SV asked whether a child from Waterbeach could get to Ely with the 50% discount. RV to double check.

RV

SV asked if the RUG could check any future text before it is published on the site.

It was suggested that the new posters could be used to communicate such things; FCC could check any text before it is put on the poster.

e. *Parking around rail stations*

Meetings held in Foxton and Meldreth to look at how Highways and Parish Councils could contribute to alleviating new safety hazards on the highway caused almost certainly by new rail commuter parking – a new pattern since the introduction of charges at Meldreth and Shepreth station car parks. It is a very complex problem to solve with no easy answers, though both parties, supported also by the police, are making sincere efforts. They may contribute to alleviate issues that affect safety, i.e. busses that have to stop in the middle of the road because of parked cars.

One member wanted to know how much the car parks cost to maintain.

Certain members agreed to keep track of how many cars were being parked at Meldreth and Shepreth, for a two-week period:

SuH – Meldreth

CA – Shepreth

SuH and CA to report back to SV

**SuH
CA**

f. *Ticket machine visibility*

RM reported that he has acquired five replacement screens for free, and these will be installed in the machines at the stations where there were the most complaints. This is to be done by January:

- Littleport
- Watlington
- Waterbeach
- Foxton
- Meldreth

FCC will decide at a later date whether to roll these out area-wide, depending on feedback. Rail users must therefore continue to complain about poor visibility in other relevant stations, and also to contact FCC about the new screens if these are an improvement.

All

g. *Cycle racks at Foxton*

SV has written to Cambridgeshire County Council to thank them for installing the cycle racks. FCC has confirmed that they are being used.

h. *Communication*

Delay Repay scheme advertised – a member spotted a poster in the shelter on the London-bound platform in Shepreth.

RUG to advertise future meetings on the new posters.

Other communications, such as how to complain to FCC about the

screens, can also be put on the poster.

i. Meldreth Station

160th birthday on 1 Aug 2011, members would like to organise an event to celebrate, and possibly include Shepreth and Foxton. A member suggested this would be better held on one of the weekends nearest to this date, to maximise the number of people attending.

Most members volunteered to form a separate work party to organise the event.

RM confirmed they could provide some prizes.

j. Other rail campaigns

SV confirmed there are lots of other RUGs, and all members agreed they would like her to forward their campaigns.

SV

4. Any other updates

- High usage at Foxton: RM has reported that usage has gone up along the whole line.
- No plans to extend carnets.
- Bikes on trains: health and safety issues. SV to put this issue on the agenda of the next meeting and has asked members to come with ideas for discussion.
- Bring other agenda items.
- SV to make a note of aspirations.

**All
All
SV**

5. Date of next meeting

Meldreth Sheltered Accommodation, early December (TBC)

AGM – Melbourn, early 2011

Action points to agree (A), including “must-haves” (MH) and “aspirations” (ASP)		
A	Letter to Meldreth Parish Council expressing concerns about dangerous traffic	Done
A	Letter to Shepreth Parish Council expressing concerns about a valuable village amenity being empty because of high car park charges	Done
A	Post minutes on Parish Council notice boards	Done
A	Request the Neighbourhood Police Panel to keep an eye out for illegal parking in the area between the Station entrance at Meldreth and the first chicane in High Street.	Done
A	Create a link from village websites to new website.	Done
A	Delay repay scheme on FCC website. Members to publicise more through posters in the villages and parish magazines.	Done
A	Shepreth Wildlife Park to maintain a list of those using Shepreth Station.	RW
MH	Drop the car park charge to £1 a day.	Progress at Meldreth, step backwards at

<p>MH Clear and accessible information about fares. Better communication with all schools and colleges.</p>	<p>Shepreth</p>
<p>MH Ramps on southbound platform on Meldreth Station.</p>	
<p>ASP Drop fares for young people</p>	<p>Done for 16-18s – keep watch</p>
<p>ASP Use Young Person’s Railcard in non-commuting direction before 10.00</p>	
<p>ASP Free parking in the car parks</p>	
<p>ASP Better provision for bikes on trains and cycle racks</p>	<p>Cycle racks at Foxton done</p>
<p>ASP To improve timetables</p>	